identified land for 'land banks' and the requirement of land for compensatory afforestation is being met from such land banks to the extent feasible.

Shortage of levy sugar in Maharashtra

1896. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has stated its inability to distribute 425 gms of levy sugar per head/month as per Central Government policy as only 29938 MTs of sugar is allotted against required allocation of 35987 MTs;

(b) whether Maharashtra Government has represented that some sugar factories refused to release levy sugar on the pretext that they have no stock or are exempted from supply of levy sugar and therefore Central Government should allot sugar from factories which have required stock of levy sugar; and

(c) whether Government will increase the allotment of levy sugar to Maharashtra and also allot sugar from factories which have required stock of levy sugar available with them?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra during June, 1994 had reported that they could not lift levy sugar to the tune of 15,393.9 MT from January upto May, 1994 within the specified validity period. The matter was examined and it was decided, to allot a quantity of 3,500 MT to the State Government to meet the requirement. The State Government of Maharashtra was also informed accordingly.

(c) Government has decided to restore 5% adhoc increase in monthly levy sugar allocation of all. States/Union Territories including Maharashtra from September, 1995 by making allotments of sugar from factories which have required stocks of levy sugar available with them.

Coal Washeries in CIL

1897. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the average capacity utilisation by coal washeries during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for under utilisation of capacity;

(c) the total quantity of coal washed during last three years;

(d) the quantity of imports of coking coal during the last three years (year wise) and to what extent this can be saved by optional utilisation of indigenous washing capacity; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to improve capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Average capacity utilisation of fifteen coking coal washeries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last three years are as under:

Year	Average percentage capacity utilisation of operable capacity
1992-93	67.76
1993-94	68.23
1994-95	68.20

(b) Main reasons for under utilisation of the capacity of existing washeries are as under

(i) Most of the washeries are old and are designed to process better quality coals. Due to depletion of these reserves over the years, the ash content in the raw coal feed has increased affecting the performance of washeries considerably.

(ii) Inadequate raw coal feed to washeries.

(iii) Frequent power failures.

(c) The total quantity of raw coal washed in coking coal washeries of CIL during the last three years is as under—

Year	Quantity of raw coal washed (in million tonnes)
1992-93	17.12
1993-94	17.23
1994-95	17.06

(d) and (e) The quantity of coking coal imported by the steel companies during the last three years are given below:

Year	Quantity (in million tonnes)
1992-93	6.756
1993-94	7.078
1994-95	8.475

Major steps taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal, inter-alia, include:—

(i) Increasing raw coking coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines.

(ii) Modification of the existing coking coal washeries to improve the capacity utilisation as well as the quality of washed coking coal.

(iii) Increasing raw coal feed to washeries by supplying low volatile medium coking coals of suitable quality.

(iv) Early commissioning of two new washeries under construction at Madhuband (Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.,) and Kedla (Central Coalfields Ltd.,) for increasing the existing washing capacity.

(v) Effective and better coordination between Coal India Limited and the steel plants is being done through regular review meetings at various levels.

Export Promotion Industrial Parks

1898. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up centrally sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) in the country to assist the State Governments in establishing infrastructural facilities for export oriented production in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that no EPIP has been approved for Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) A centrally Sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) Scheme has been formulated to assist State Governments in establishing infrastructural facilities for export oriented production. The Scheme provides that 75% of the capital expenditure incurred towards creation of infrastructural facilities for export oriented production will be met from a Central grant to the State Governments, which will ordinarily be limited to Rs. 10 crores in each case. In addition, a maintenance grant equivalent to 2% of export turnover of each unit established therein would also be made available to the State Governments for a period of 5 years from the date of commercial production of that unit.

(c) and (d) On the basis of the State Government's recommendations, and EPIP has been approved at Siya, District Dewas in Madhya Pradesh in July, 1995.

Visit of Deputy Premier of Russia

1899. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Deputy Premier of Russia visited India in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this visit will help to double the trade between the two countries as compared to the figures from 1991;

(d) if so, the details thereof with areas of such trade;

(e) whether Government propose to take some measures to double its trade transactions with countries of the world taking 1991 as the target base; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mr. Y.F. Yarov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and the Co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission visited New Delhi on July 5-6, 1995.

(c) and (d) Both, Russia and India have decided to double with, volume of trade as compared to the 1993 level to about Rs. 5000